

AUG 16 1959

~~Russians Demantized.~~ Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000800070025-3
CPYRGHT
Guides at U. S. Fair

By OSGOOD CARUTHERS

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Aug. 15 — The Russian-speaking American guides at the American National Exhibition in Moscow were attacked in the Soviet press today.

The Communist youth paper Komsomolskaya Pravda charged that the Americans were giving misleading answers to questions, "violating the accepted code of behavior," surreptitiously distributing American propaganda around Moscow and "offending the feelings and dignity of the Soviet people."

The Moscow press continued to publish accounts elsewhere of bright prospects for a new era of Soviet-American friendship as a result of the coming exchange of visits between President Eisenhower and Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev. However,

someone speaking Russian with an American accent and identifying himself as Will Johnson had called the newspaper's editors, accused them of printing a false story about an average American apartment, de-

clared that name was given away free in the United States and then agreed to meet them at the exhibition. Two reporters, V. Borisov and I. Mironov, said they had wandered around the grounds but had been unable to find any Johnson.

No Johnson is listed among the American personnel at the fair.

The Soviet reporters, however, found Vladimir Chavrid, who is not a guide but a representative of the Department of Labor. Mr. Chavrid has been giving speeches to large groups at the exhibition about labor conditions in the United States and about the unemployment problem. He has been handing out mimeographed copies of a speech, according to Komsomolskaya Pravda, and engaging

carping at every aspect of the American exhibition continued unabated.

The youth newspaper charged that one of the guides, George Wilson of Arlington, Va., had become involved in an incident at his hotel desk a week ago. He was said to have slapped a maid while he was "tipsy" and to have shouted that he hated Russians.

Wilson was taking the day off today and could not be reached for his version of the incident. A Soviet official said he apparently had been involved in a minor incident which was being investigated. The official said he believed it

was a result of a misunderstanding of language.

Komsomolskaya Pravda said the incident, at the Ostatino Hotel, where the guides are residing, was brought to light through a letter received last night from a group of the hotel's employees.

The letter said Mr. Wilson had come home "late" at 2 a.m. Aug. 8 and tried to get into someone else's room. When the maid on the floor saw him this was not allowed, the American guide tried to have shouted: "What are you? A Russian and not an American?"

"He then attacked the maid and slapped her face," the account continues. Other employees who came up told the American guide that his behavior was utterly impermissible. If he would not listen to reason, he should know that he hated Russians and would do as he pleased."

The letter concluded as follows: "It is a good idea to let him go."

"He loses' his leaflets in Moscow restaurants, at bus stops and in taxis," the newspaper said.

It lumped Mr. Chavrid with what it sarcastically called "average and typical" guides and declared that he "boldly undertook the impractical task of proving that America is a paradise for the unemployed."

The reporters ran across another man who, they said, had been given his name as Edmond and who could not be found on the personnel list at the exhibition. They said he had made disparaging remarks about the Russians' shoes in an effort to prove that American shoes were better.

All of these persons, the paper said, went beyond the bounds of the definition of a guide.

"On what grounds, then, do some 'typical, average' guides, violating the accepted code of behavior, telephone to the offices of newspapers, circulate

their typed writings, allow themselves to offend the feelings and dignity of the Soviet people?" the article asked.

"In our view such actions cannot, of course, help to strengthen the spirit of friendship and understanding between the American and Soviet people."

Much of this criticism can be considered retaliation for critical reports and outright attacks published in American newspapers about the recent Soviet exhibition in New York. But as the barrage continues it appears to be a major campaign to knock down American efforts at the exhibition here to rebut long-standing Soviet propaganda arguments against the capitalist way of life in the United States.

The seventy-five Russian-speaking American guides at the exhibition have been briefed to handle the general onslaught of questions fired at them by thousands of Soviet citizens who pour through the pavilions and

exhibits for eleven hours every day. Especially they have been warned against losing their tempers under the pressure of the heckling that often punctuates the questioning during these long hours.

This is not always humanly possible, however, and any sharp rebuff or sign of impatience is seized upon by wary Moscow reporters as evidence that some Americans are not doing all they can to help bring about more friendly relations.

FOIAb3b